



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

November 9, 2017

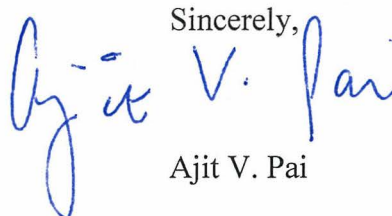
The Honorable Bill Nelson
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
425 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

On September 29, 2017, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) publicly released a report entitled *FCC Should Conduct Additional Analysis to Evaluate Need for Set-Top Box Regulation*, GAO 17-785 (Report).¹ GAO examined the Commission's efforts to ensure commercial availability of devices to access programming provided by multichannel video programming distributors (MVPDs).

The Report recommends that the Commission, as part of its statutorily required annual reports to Congress on the status of competition in the market for the delivery of video programming, conduct a comprehensive analysis of "how the ongoing evolution in the video programming market affects competition in the related market for set-top boxes and devices, including how this evolution affects the extent to which consumer choice for devices to access MVPD content remains a relevant aspect of the competitive environment." In a September 21, 2017 response to the draft report, the Chief of the Commission's Media Bureau agreed with GAO's recommendation.² As indicated in that response, the Commission will utilize the annual video competition report proceedings to gather data and solicit comment on issues relevant to whether there is a need for further regulations to ensure the commercial availability of devices to access MVPD programming. We will include an analysis of these data and comments in our future annual video competition reports.

I appreciate GAO's analysis and recommendation, and I reiterate the Commission's commitment to implementing measures to address GAO's findings.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

cc: The Honorable Yvette D. Clarke

¹ GAO, *FCC Should Conduct Additional Analysis to Evaluate Need for Set-Top Box Regulation*, GAO 17-785, available at <https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-785>.

² *Id.* at 26.



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

November 9, 2017

The Honorable Chris Coons
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

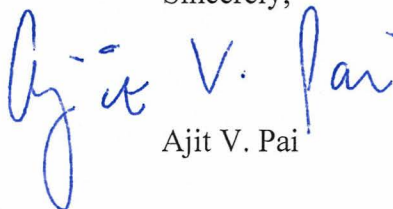
Dear Senator Coons:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

November 9, 2017

The Honorable Claire McCaskill
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
422 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

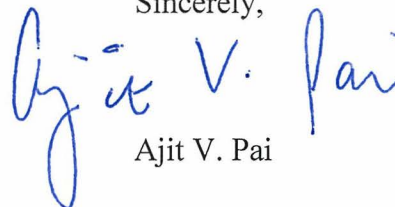
Dear Senator McCaskill:

On September 29, 2017, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) publicly released a report entitled *FCC Should Conduct Additional Analysis to Evaluate Need for Set-Top Box Regulation*, GAO 17-785 (Report).¹ GAO examined the Commission's efforts to ensure commercial availability of devices to access programming provided by multichannel video programming distributors (MVPDs).

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

November 9, 2017

The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
2471 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

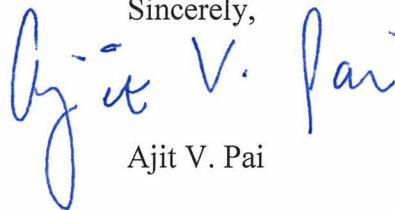
Dear Congressman Cummings:

On September 29, 2017, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) publicly released a report entitled *FCC Should Conduct Additional Analysis to Evaluate Need for Set-Top Box Regulation*, GAO 17-785 (Report).¹ GAO examined the Commission's efforts to ensure commercial availability of devices to access programming provided by multichannel video programming distributors (MVPDs).

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

November 9, 2017

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pallone:

On September 29, 2017, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) publicly released a report entitled *FCC Should Conduct Additional Analysis to Evaluate Need for Set-Top Box Regulation*, GAO 17-785 (Report).¹ GAO examined the Commission's efforts to ensure commercial availability of devices to access programming provided by multichannel video programming distributors (MVPDs).

The Report recommends that the Commission, as part of its statutorily required annual reports to Congress on the status of competition in the market for the delivery of video programming, conduct a comprehensive analysis of "how the ongoing evolution in the video programming market affects competition in the related market for set-top boxes and devices, including how this evolution affects the extent to which consumer choice for devices to access MVPD content remains a relevant aspect of the competitive environment." In a September 21, 2017 response to the draft report, the Chief of the Commission's Media Bureau agreed with GAO's recommendation.² As indicated in that response, the Commission will utilize the annual video competition report proceedings to gather data and solicit comment on issues relevant to whether there is a need for further regulations to ensure the commercial availability of devices to access MVPD programming. We will include an analysis of these data and comments in our future annual video competition reports.

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Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

cc: The Honorable Yvette D. Clarke

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

November 9, 2017

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

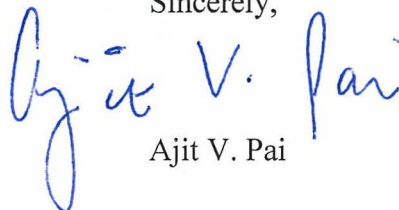
Dear Chairman Walden:

On September 29, 2017, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) publicly released a report entitled *FCC Should Conduct Additional Analysis to Evaluate Need for Set-Top Box Regulation*, GAO 17-785 (Report).¹ GAO examined the Commission's efforts to ensure commercial availability of devices to access programming provided by multichannel video programming distributors (MVPDs).

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

November 9, 2017

The Honorable John Thune
Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Thune:

On September 29, 2017, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) publicly released a report entitled *FCC Should Conduct Additional Analysis to Evaluate Need for Set-Top Box Regulation*, GAO 17-785 (Report).¹ GAO examined the Commission's efforts to ensure commercial availability of devices to access programming provided by multichannel video programming distributors (MVPDs).

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Ajit V. Pai

cc: The Honorable Yvette D. Clarke

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

November 9, 2017

The Honorable Mike Quigley
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

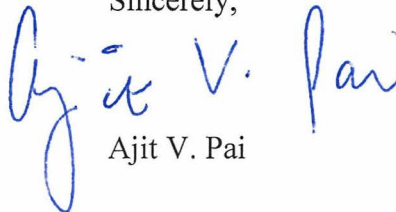
Dear Congressman Quigley:

On September 29, 2017, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) publicly released a report entitled *FCC Should Conduct Additional Analysis to Evaluate Need for Set-Top Box Regulation*, GAO 17-785 (Report).¹ GAO examined the Commission's efforts to ensure commercial availability of devices to access programming provided by multichannel video programming distributors (MVPDs).

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Ajit V. Pai

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

November 9, 2017

The Honorable Ron Johnson
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
United States Senate
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

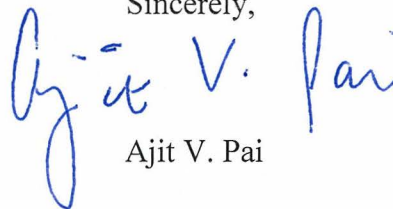
Dear Chairman Johnson:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

November 9, 2017

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

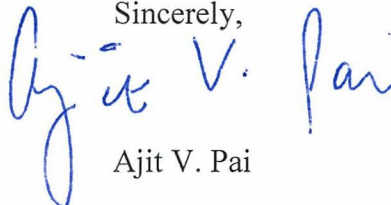
Dear Chairwoman Capito:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

November 9, 2017

The Honorable Tom Graves
Chairman
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
B-300 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

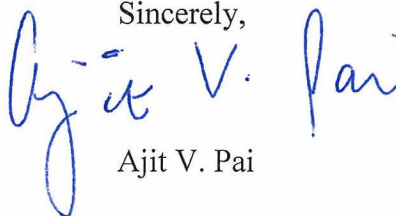
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

November 9, 2017

The Honorable Trey Gowdy
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

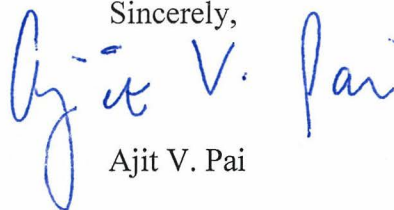
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